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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **INTIER AUTOMOTIVE CLOSURES INC. [CA/CA]**; 521 Newpark Boulevard, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4X7 (CA).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **PRIBISIC, Mirko** [CA/CA]; 6 Ballymena Court, North York, Ontario M3C 2B9 (CA).

(74) Agents: **PORAT, Alex et al.**; Magna International Inc., 337 Magna Drive, Aurora, Ontario L4G 7K1 (CA).

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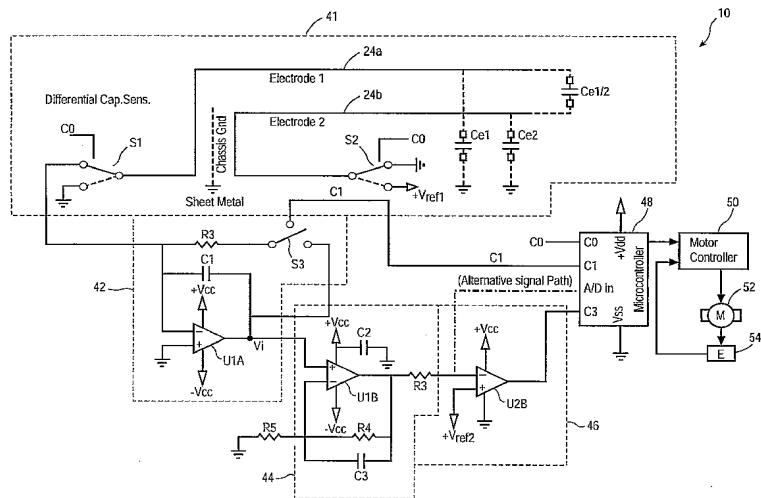
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(54) Title: DIFFERENTIAL ANTI-PINCH CAPACITIVE SENSOR



(57) Abstract: A proximity sensor for sensing an object in the path of or proximate to a closure panel such as a vehicle window. First and second electrodes encased in a non-conductive casing are mounted on the metallic structure near the closing edge of the aperture. The two electrodes define a capacitance CE1/2 therebetween, and parasitic capacitances CE1 & CE2 between the first electrode and chassis ground and the second electrode and chassis ground, respectively. A controller cyclically connects (1) the second electrode to a voltage reference source (Vref₁) and the first electrode to chassis ground and (2) the second electrode to chassis ground and the first electrode to the reference capacitor, thereby periodically charging the capacitance CE1/2 and transferring the charge stored thereon to the reference capacitor whilst short-circuiting the parasitic capacitances. The charge on the reference capacitor, the time period required to charge the reference capacitor to a specified voltage, or a calculated value for CE1/2 are then compared against a reference value in order to derive an obstruction signal.

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